

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 249

By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor the Smoky Mountain Field School on its fortieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take great pride in recognizing those outstanding educational institutions that, through the dedicated efforts of their students and staff, bring honor to the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the Smoky Mountain Field School is one such estimable institution, which is celebrating its fortieth anniversary this year; and

WHEREAS, the Smoky Mountain Field School was conceived in the late 1970s by Gayle Cooper of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK), and Don De Foe, Assistant Chief of Interpretation, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, as a means to promote learning in the natural world; and

WHEREAS, established as a cooperative effort between the University of Tennessee and Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the Smoky Mountain Field School offers unique opportunities to “Explore, Learn, and Enjoy” in one of the nation’s premier national parks through indoor workshops and outdoor field adventures; and

WHEREAS, participants may choose from more than fifty courses, such as plant and animal identification, art, music, animal tracking, and backpacking, taught by over twenty- five expert instructors, including professors, park personnel and retirees, naturalists, and wildlife advocates; and

WHEREAS, one of the longest-serving, award-winning educational partnerships between a major state university and a premier national park, the Smoky Mountain Field School has provided forty years of enjoyment and learning opportunities to thousands of eager students; and

WHEREAS, the dedication, enthusiasm, knowledge, and experience of the Smoky Mountain Field School staff are clearly deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of the members of this General Assembly on this special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we recognize and honor the Smoky Mountain Field School on the occasion of its fortieth anniversary, commend its outstanding instructors and staff for their ongoing commitment to quality education, and extend our best wishes for every continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.